March 5th, 1799.

MR. CROMWELL,

OF

Cheſhunt Park,

RECEIVED, on Sunday Evening, the 3d. of this Month, a Letter addreſſed to him, in conſequence of the Appearance of his Name in ſome of the Newſpapers as one of the Perſons ſigning the Petition for leave to introduce to the Houſe of Commons the propoſed bill for incloſing Cheſhunt Common:—this letter threatens not only Mr Cromwell, but Sir George Preſcott, and all others concurring in this meaſure, in the moſt violent and ſhocking terms that can be deviſed by the moſt malevolent and wicked mind.—Proper meaſures are taking for the diſcovery of the author, who probably is not aware of the puniſhment which awaits him.—Mr. Cromwell thus publickly pointed out as one of the enemies to the commoners' rights, feels it incumbent upon him, in his own juſtification, to ſtate the part he has taken in this affair of the propoſed incloſure. The firſt idea of the incloſure, whatever may be ſaid to the contrary, certainly came from the Rev. Mr. Martin, the Impropriator of the great tithes, without (he is ſatisfied) any communication with Sir George Preſcott; and certainly without any communication with Mr. Cromwell, who received the notice of the firſt meeting in the ſame manner as the reſt of the inhabitants of the pariſh.—He attended, with many others, that meeting, at Waltham Croſs, but took no part in it, and declined ſigning the reſolutions then produced by Mr. Martin's agents, and which he never afterwards ſigned. Thinking, as he does, after the beſt conſideration he is capable of giving the ſubject, that incloſures are beneficial to a neighbourhood, by bringing into cultivation large tracts of land, otherwiſe of little uſe, and finding employ for the induſtrious huſbandman, he determined to concur in the propoſed application to Parliament; but immediately after the before-mentioned meeting, wrote to Sir George Preſcott, acquainting him that he would not engage therein, unleſs he would conſent to the ſetting apart a conſiderable portion of the common for the uſe of the cottagers, under a ſtint of the number of cattle to be kept by each of them, to be ſettled by the commiſſioners to be named in the propoſed act, ſo that they might be ſure of a common, and of the complete and uninterrupted enjoyment thereof for ever:—to this propoſal, Sir George Preſcott, without heſitation, and in the moſt handſome manner, conſented; and Mr. Cromwell, with his concurrence, ſent, to the gentleman employed by Mr. Martin in preparing the bill, his ideas upon the ſubject; and, conformably thereto, the proper clauſes were, under Mr. Cromwell's inſpection, inſerted in the bill; which will be ſeen by the peruſal of the draft thereof, left with Mr. Ruſſell, for the inſpection of the perſons intereſted. From the foregoing ſtatement, Mr. Cromwell truſts his neighbours will ſee that he has not been inattentive to their intereſts; and he is ſatisfied that they would enjoy the portion of the common, ſo propoſed to be ſet apart for them, regulated in the manner propoſed by the bill, much more completely and beneficially to themſelves, than they have ever done the preſent common.—If, nevertheleſs, thoſe intereſted, ſhould think differently, he truſts his conduct towards them, ſince his reſidence amongſt them, will obtain him credit for his good intentions, and his readineſs, at all times, to promote their comfort and happineſs.

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